REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, none of the claims now pending in the application are unpatentable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1, 9 and 12 are herein amended. Support for the amendment may be found in the Specification at least in paragraph 21. Various claims are amended to address various informalities. Thus, all of the claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 4-6, 9-10 AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-10 and 12 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being un-patentable over Gillespie (U.S. Patent 6,823,048, issued on November 23, 2004, hereinafter referred to as "Gillespie"), in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,764,745, issued on June 9, 1998, hereinafter referred to as "Chan") in further view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,532,490, issued on March 11, 2003, hereinafter referred to as "Lewis"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gillespie describes calling name information caching. Gillespie describes that if information is not found in the local database that the network queries a remote database. (See Gillespie, Column 3, Lines 33-47 and Column 5, Lines 26-35).

Chan describes local number portability using non-geographical subscriber numbers. (See Chan, Abstract).

Lewis describes reducing the number of queries to a foreign network element. (See Lewis, Abstract, Figures 1-3, and Column 7, Line 11 to Column 10, Line 63).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Gillespie, Chan and Lewis, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to disclose a method, an apparatus or a system for acquiring caller-specific information comprising querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network

carrying the call, as positively claimed by the independent claims. Specifically, the independent claims 1, 9 and 12 recite:

1. A method for acquiring caller-specific information, the method comprising:

receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with the calling party, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period;

obtaining the caller-specific information from the local cache if the caller-specific information is found in the local cache;

forwarding the caller-specific information to complete the call; and

querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. (Emphasis added).

9. An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific information, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;

means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with the calling party, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period;

means for obtaining the caller-specific information from the local cache if the caller-specific information is found in the local cache;

means for forwarding the caller-specific information to complete the call; and

means for querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the means for querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. (Emphasis added).

12. A system for acquiring caller-specific information, the system comprising:

a local cache for querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying a call, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period; and

a switch for receiving the call for completion from a calling party, wherein the switch queries the local cache for the caller-specific information associated with the calling party, and wherein the switch obtains the caller-specific information from the local cache if the caller-specific information is found in the local cache and forwards the caller-specific information to complete the call. (Emphasis added).

In one embodiment, the disclosure describes a method, an apparatus and a system for acquiring caller-specific information comprising querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. For example, the local cache may query the remote database via a **signaling network and not the communication network**. (See e.g., Specification, Paragraph [0021] and FIG. 1).

Gillespie only describes that if the calling number is not in the local cache that the telecommunication network queries a remote database for calling name information. (See Gillespie, Column 3, Lines 33-47). In other words, the same telecommunication network that carries the call also queries the remote database in Gillespie. In stark contrast, the disclosure describes querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. Thus, the disclosure advantageously avoids adding additional traffic and consuming additional bandwidth of the communication network for caller information queries. Moreover, the disclosure avoids over burdening the processing power of switches in the communication network by allowing the local cache to perform the remote database query. This disclosure is clearly absent in Gillespie.

Moreover, Chan fails to close the significant gap left by Gillespie because Chan also fails to disclose querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in a local cache, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. In the Office Action dated March 31,

2010, the Examiner refers to the Abstract in Chan for support. However, the Abstract by Chan has no description regarding a cache querying a remote database. Specifically, Chan recites (See Chan, Abstract):

> "An apparatus and method for telecommunications network local number portability supports service provider portability, location portability, and service portability. A subscriber is assigned a nongeographic subscriber number that is uniquely mapped to a location-based geographic terminal location number. Different embodiments of the apparatus query different combinations of databases to obtain the nongeographic subscriber number to geographic terminal location number mapping that allows a call to a nongeographic subscriber number to be routed and delivered using existing network routing mechanisms. The originating switch determines whether a received called number is a geographic terminal location number or a nongeographic subscriber number that will require the originating switch to query a database to request that the number be mapped to a geographic terminal location number. The queried database can contain the information for mapping a nongeographic subscriber number to a geographic terminal location number, either for all valid nongeographic subscriber numbers or for only the nongeographic subscriber numbers of a specific service provider, can contain information for mapping all valid nongeographic subscriber numbers to service provider identification codes containing either network routing information or the address of another database, or a combination of both. If the queried database is able to map the called number to a geographic terminal location number, it returns that number to the originating switch for call routing. If the database is unable to map the nongeographic subscriber number to a geographic terminal location number, it can either query a second database for a service provider identification code or itself return a service provider identification code to the originating switch. The first database then uses the received service provider identification code to identify another database to query for the geographic terminal location number, forwards the code to the originating switch which then makes the query, or uses the network routing information to route the call for further handling using existing network routing mechanisms." (Emphasis added.)

Namely, Chan fails to recite any "remote" access. Chan only discloses querying a second database if the database is unable to map the nongeographic subscriber number to a geographic terminal location number. There is absolutely no teaching that the second database is a remote database. As such, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Chan fails to close the significant gap left by Gillespie.

Moreover, Lewis fails to close the significant gap left by Gillespie and Chan because Lewis also fails to disclose querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in a local cache, wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. Lewis is only concerned with adding data obtained from a foreign network into a local cache to reduce the number of queries to a foreign network element. (See Lewis, Abstract, Figures 1-3, and Column 7, Line 11 - Column 10, Line 63). The Examiner alleges Figures 1-3 of Lewis show a separate PSTN. However, it appears that the Intelligent Network Element (INE) does not use the PSTN to obtain the data. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the database 26 is shown outside the PSTN network 18. In fact, Lewis fails to describe the database 26 being accessed via the PSTN. In contrast, the disclosure describes the local cache querying over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. The disclosure advantageously avoids adding additional traffic and consuming additional bandwidth of the communication network for caller information queries. Therefore, Lewis fails to close the significant gap left by Gillespie and Chan.

However, in order to further clarify the disclosure, the independent claims 1, 9 and 12 are herein amended to recite: wherein the caller-specific information is associated with a time-to-live time period. This additional aspect is also missing in the cited references. Thus, the combination of Gillespie, Chan and Lewis fails to make obvious the independent claims 1, 9 and 12. As such, claims 1, 9 and 12 of the disclosure are patentable over Gillespie, Chan and Lewis.

In addition, dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 10 depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively, and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, claims 2, 4-6, and 10 are also patentable over Gillespie, Chan and Lewis. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Thus, all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Consequently, all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 842-8110 x130 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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